

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 /087 W

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R 272119Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7087

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS PARIS 05174

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CB, FR

SUBJECT: SIHANOUK INTERVIEW WITH AFP IN PEKING

1. WE WISH TO CALL ATTENTION TO AFP 27 FEBRUARY REPORT OF ROMENSKY INTERVIEW WITH SIHANOUK ON 24 FEBRUARY. SIHANOUK SAID HE EXPECTED KHMERS ROUGES VICTORY VERY SOON; THE END OF THE WAR WOULD OCCUR IF NOT THIS YEAR, THEN NEXT. WITH OR WITHOUT SUPPLEMENTARY AID THE U.S. COULD NOT ELIMINATE THE KHMERS ROUGES. SIHANOUK SAID HE HAD TALKED WITH CHOU-EN-LAI MONDAY (PRESUMABLY 17 FEBRUARY) AND THE LATTER HAD FELICITATED HIM ON THE VERY GOOD WAY IN WHICH THE SITUATION WAS DEVELOPING IN CAMBODIA. ACCORDING TO SIHANOUK, CHOU SAID HE WOULD WIN "IN VERY LITTLE TIME". STILL ACCORDING TO SIHANOUK, CHOU SAID HE HAD ADVISED SECRETARY KISSINGER IN NOVEMBER 1974 TO ABANDON THE GKR IN ORDER TO SAVE U.S. HONOR, BUT HE REGRETTED THAT KISSINGER HAD NOT ACCEPTED THE ADVICE FAVORABLY.

2. SIHANOUK SAID THAT DURING HIS TET TRIP TO HANOI HE ARRANGED WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO PROVIDE A
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"LAND BRIDGE" TO PROVIDE CHINESE ARMS AND MUNITIONS TO

THE KHMERS ROUGES IN RESPONSE TO THE U.S. "AIR BRIDGE"
FOR PHNOM PENH.

3. SIHANOUK SAID HE HAD TOLD THE KHMERS ROUGES LEADERS
THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO REMAIN CHIEF OF STATE AFTER
VICTORY, BUT THEY INSISTED THAT HE REMAIN CHIEF OF
STATE FOR LIFE. HE COMMENTED THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT ONLY
THE FUNCTION OF FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVE AND WOULD NO
LONGER CONCERN HIMSELF WITH INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE WOULD
THEREFORE LIVE ABROAD 11 MONTHS OUT OF 12.
RUSH

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